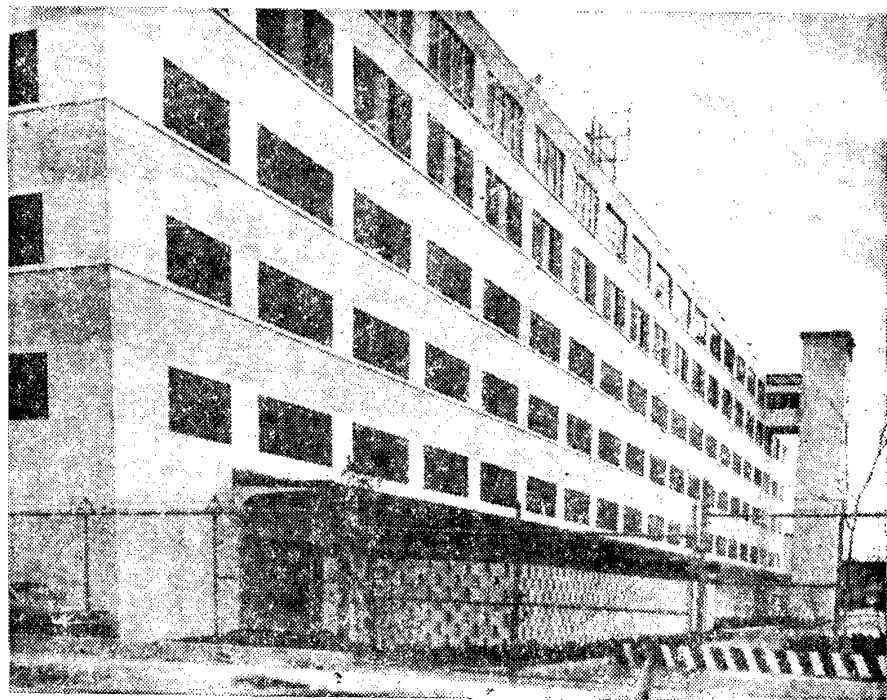


# Medium Cost \$3 Million



The Washington Post

This is the building at 1st and M sts. se., in which the CIA maintains offices.

## Hurry-Up, Hush Job Put CIA Office in SE

By Susanna McBee  
Staff Reporter

There is nothing particularly unusual about the outside of Building 123 down at First and M st. se. It is no uglier than any other Federal building, and it is not quite so ugly as some.

When you think of its surroundings—liquor stores, run-down shops, a railroad spur, and, right around it, a formidable chain link fence topped by five rows of unfriendly barbed wire—the six-story cream-and-gray building is positively glamorous.

That brown brick-like masonry where windows used to be might seem a little off beat. But one occupant of the building said, "That's just an attempt to make it a little more eye appealing."

The building, a renovated warehouse on the Naval Weapons Plant grounds, has been occupied since January, 1963.

When it was opened then, there was no announcement, no little ceremony, no welcome-to-the-great-southeast-sector fanfare.

In fact, there was no announcement in November, 1961, when the General Services Administration gave a negotiated contract—one without competitive bidding—to

John E. Byrne, GSA's information officer, admitted the negotiated contract was a "very unusual" procedure and said GSA "does it only under rare circumstances." He would not disclose the function of the CIA building, how many employees are there, or how much it cost. He said competitive bidding was not used because "we wanted a good job and a fast job in this particular line of work."

A rival contractor said the work originally was to have cost between \$4 and \$5 million but that the job is rumored to have cost about \$10 million. McCloskey could not be reached, but his son, Thomas, declined to comment on the project. All GSA's Byrne would say is that McCloskey's

By now you have guessed why. Most of the occupants are Central Intelligence Agency employees. They are quite open about that much. Yesterday they even invited a reporter inside to the wood-paneled lobby, an anteroom, and the large first-floor cafeteria.

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